

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°883
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EU Statement on Europe Day under AOB

Mr. Chairman, on the 9th May, we celebrate Europe Day. This is a symbolic day, marking the beginning of an important project - a unity of European nations living side by side in peace and prosperity. It is the day Robert Schuman, in his famous speech, launched an unprecedented effort, through unprecedented means, to help old enemies live together, not just side by side, but in support of each other.

The EU is built on the strong foundations of shared values and common purpose rooted in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. This strongly resonates with the OSCE hallmark concept of comprehensive and cooperative security.

We cannot forget that, while so much progress has been achieved in Europe in the past decades, peace is still not a reality on the whole of the European continent and much less further afield.

The EU will continue to work tirelessly in the OSCE and elsewhere, to share and deepen the security benefits that derive from peace, democracy and human rights, on the European continent and beyond, to the advantage of all our citizens.